Changes in exim policy relating to citneneua oil

3147. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to change present import export policy in regard to certain chemical substitutes of natural citneneua oil as demanded by the grass growers of North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Review of Export and Import Policy is an ongoing process and changes in it are made as and when considered necessary.

Warehouse in foreign countries

3148. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up warehouses in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof country-wise; and

(c) the time by which these warehouses are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Government is encouraging setting up of warehouses in foreign coutries by private and public sector organisations. A Group of Indian entrepreneurs is establishing a Warehouse-cum-Distribution Centre known as India International Marketing Centre (IIMC) at Rotterdam (The Netherlands,). The Centre is expected to be operational by the second half of 1995.

Trade ties with Latin American countries

3149 SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether five Latin American countries have addressed the Indian Government to take advantage of their liberalised economies for enhancing the trade ties:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Representations from tobacco growers and beedi workers

3150. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received a large number of representations from tobacco growers and beedi workers to oppose any restrictions placed on their employment; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Representations have been received from the tobacco growers and beedi workers opposing the proposed anti-tobacco legislation which they apprehend may adversely affect their employment. The Tobacco Board had discussed this matter with representatives of tobacco exporters, cigarette industry Tobacco Institute of India, and some members of Parliament and recommended that an Expert Committee be constituted by the Government to examine its implications and the legislation be kept in abeyance till the Committee gives its findings. These recommendations have been passed on to the Ministry of Health for their consideration.

Countries having favourable balance of trade with India

3151. SHRI K. M. KHAN:

MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with which balance of payment/trade balance has been in favour of India during 1993--94;

(b) the countries having surplus and deficit trade balance with India during the above period; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to bring favourable balance of trade for India with countries with whom the trade balances are in deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The major countries with which India had surplus trae baldance during 1993-94 are Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Russia; Spain; Singapore; Thailand and USA. The major countries with which India had deficit trade balance during the same year are France; Nigeria; Republic of Korea; Sweden; Switzerland and U.K.

(c) Export promotion is a continuous process and steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and other relevant interests. The Government is striving to make the environment of policies and procedures more export friendly. The measures include grant of income tax exemption on export profits, access to cheaper export credit designated in convertible currency, and assistance to Export Promotion Councils for export market development.

Guidelines to States for incentives to exporters

3152. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any guidelines or offered a package of incentives to the State Governments for providing infrastructural facilities and special incentives to the exporters of their respective States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any suggestions from the State Governments to modify the guidelines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; Statewise; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir